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On Thursday, February 7, 1985, Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, 37, stashed his badge and his service revolver in his desk drawer and headed for lunch with his wife, Mika. Kiki, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent, had been on the trail of Mexico's marijuana and cocaine barons. He was due to be reassigned in three weeks, having come dangerously close to unlocking a multi-billion dollar drug pipeline, which he suspected extended into the highest reaches of the Mexican army, police, and government.

According to the DEA's reconstruction of events, as he headed to lunch five men appeared at the agent's side and shoved him into a car. That was the last time anyone but his kidnappers would see him alive.

Kiki Camarena's body was found one month later in a shallow grave, 70 miles from Michoacan, Mexico. He had been tortured, beaten, and brutally murdered. Mika would have to tell her three sons that their daddy would not be coming home again.

As news of this atrocity began to appear in newspapers, radio, and television broadcasts, many school parent associations, already angry and sick of the killing and destruction caused by alcohol and other drugs in America, were looking about for some way to proclaim their concerns and to make a demand for action in local communities. Several of these groups banded together and select a Red Ribbon as their symbol, and set about creating a Red Ribbon Campaign to show intolerance for drugs in our schools, our work places, and our communities.

In 1988, with Nancy Reagan as Honorary Chairman, an eight-day Red Ribbon Week was proclaimed by the Congress of the United States. Each year since 1988 the Red Ribbon Campaign has grown and now impacts millions of Americans like no other drug prevention movement in history. In schools in particular, when everyone is wearing a Red Ribbon, this little piece of satin carries the message that it is OK TO SAY NO!.

I have enclosed these ribbons for you to distribute to the Minnesota wing CAP Cadets of your unit.

Thanks ,

CH., LTC, Don Mikitta